

Trustees of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library  
November 14, 2023 7:30pm, in-person  
Minutes

- Members present: Michele Regan-Ladd, Mel DeSilva, Brad Foster, Elizabeth Murphy, Tim Logan
- Guest: Nathan Murphy
- Mary Anne Antonellis: Library Director
  
- Approved June 12, 2023 meeting minutes. Approved: Michele Regan-Ladd-yes, Mel DeSilva-yes, Brad Foster-yes, Tim Logan-yes. Elizabeth Murphy abstained because they were not present at the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Approved October 30, 2023 meeting minutes unanimously. Michele Regan-Ladd-yes, Mel DeSilva-yes, Brad Foster-yes, Elizabeth Murphy-yes, Tim Logan-yes
- Director's Report:
  - It's Dinovember – the month when toy dinosaurs come to life. The library's toy dinosaurs have been WILD and have needed to be adopted out- 9 dinosaurs have gone to new homes and there are 11 remaining to be adopted out.
  - Tewksbury Library- programming librarian offers amazing virtual adult programming and they offer some of their virtual programming to other libraries for free or a minimal cost. This is a great partnership to have because it enhances our library's programming. On the upcoming anniversary of the Boston Tea Party, they are having a virtual event on history and on tea.
- Library Building Committee: The original perk test was good, but the siting for the septic isn't optimal. So they are trying a new site which includes a perk test on the new site. This is delaying things by a few weeks. The committee meets again on December 5<sup>th</sup> and will hopefully talk then about the pricing set.
- Friends of the Library: Turkey Trot is on November 18<sup>th</sup>. The race has already raised \$10k. 35 sponsors, 107 runners, 37 volunteers. Giving Tuesday – November 28<sup>th</sup> has a \$10,000 matching gift. They have prepared a mailing about Giving Tuesday which went out today. Soups and Stews event- December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Budget: Since COVID the library staff's job has evolved because library services have evolved, the way we interact has evolved, and there are a lot of administrative tasks associated with all of this. To this end, Mary Anne is requesting \$3000 more in salary to increase the hours of the library assistant which is necessary to maintain the current level of library services. Story time for children should not be reliant on fundraising. Storytime should be funded be a permanent, fundamental program paid for by the town and the cost is only \$1000 which is why Mary Anne is requesting \$1000 more in town funding for story time for next year. In order for a library to be certified by the state to receive state aid, 1) our town must fund the library at the minimal level required by the state, 2) 20% of the library budget must be spent on new material and technology for patron use. Budget approved unanimously: Michele Regan-Ladd-yes, Mel DeSilva-yes, Brad Foster-yes, Elizabeth Murphy-yes, Tim Logan-yes
- Action Plan: The Action Plan is a requirement of the MBLC which makes the library eligible for state grants. Action Plan approved unanimously: Michele Regan-Ladd-yes, Mel DeSilva-yes, Brad Foster-yes, Elizabeth Murphy-yes, Tim Logan-yes
- Finance Committee Meeting: December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm- virtual

Next meeting: Monday, December 18, 2023 at 7:30pm - hybrid

Respectfully submitted by Melanie (Mel) DeSilva, Secretary, Library Board of Trustees